



# Legion of Mary Arlington Regia

## Reminder About Certain Legion Principles September 7, 2003

The Legion system is invariable. Therefore, it is appropriate that on occasion we remind ourselves about certain Legion principles that might at times cause confusion for members, officers, and their Spiritual Directors. It is humbly requested that each council read and make available these considerations addressed below.

**1. Legionaries must accept conditions presented by the pastor of the parish in a spirit of humility and loyalty.**

Legionaries may, at times, be asked by the pastor to function under conditions that they believe are less than ideal. These conditions should be accepted humbly, in the Spirit of Mary. Legionaries may privately express concerns to the pastor. However, under no circumstances, should Legionaries publicly disagree with the pastor. Any public position taken by a Legionary will be seen by the pastor and the parishioners as a position of the Legion and may cause the pastor and other parishioners to question the loyalty of the Legionaries. Humility and loyalty are fundamental Legion principles. The handbook declares that Legionary discipline can at times be like martyrdom to self. It is through this discipline that Legionaries grow and receive graces that are so important to Legion lives.

**2. The work done by the praesidium is based on the preferences of the pastor and spiritual director and is not the choice of individual members or the praesidium at large.**

The handbook gives wide latitude to the pastor as to the works of the Legion to support the pastor's spiritual goals for the parish. The works of the praesidium do not belong to the members. A pastor has the right to change or limit the works of the praesidium. Legionaries should humbly accept such a situation. Obedience to the pastor in this regard will be a source of great graces to the members. A fundamental principle of Legionary action is that Legionaries are representatives of the pastor and the parish priests. Legionaries are faithful and obedient to the Legion system as well as to ecclesiastical authority.

**3. Problems in a praesidium must immediately be brought to the attention of the curia.**

The curia is the supervising body of the praesidium. The curia meeting is a school for officers and the place where frank and open discussion is to take place. Attempts to solve problems in the praesidium without the involvement of the curia will likely fail. Likewise, it is the responsibility of the curia to keep sufficient contact with its praesidia to know when problems occur that require curia intervention. It is a fundamental Legion principle that no Legion body proceeds into uncharted waters without guidance from the higher council.

#### **4. The praesidium belongs to the curia, not to the praesidium members.**

The praesidium does not exist until it is created by the curia. Likewise, once established by the curia, the praesidium does not cease to exist until it is dissolved by the curia. It is not under the power of praesidium members, acting independently of the curia, to dissolve the praesidium. Just as the soldiers in a regular army cannot disband a platoon or battalion, so too, Legionaries cannot disband their praesidium. It is a fundamental principle of Legion existence that every Legionary and every Legion group is intimately connected to a higher council.

Let us remind ourselves each day:

“The Object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active cooperation, under ecclesiastical guidance, in Mary’s and the Church’s work of crushing the head of the serpent and advancing the reign of Christ.”

